

## AMENDMENTS

### In the Claims:

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer as to future prosecution. Please replace claims 2-13 and 15-18 with the following claims –

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2. (Amended) The degraded, inhibited, cationic starch of claim 19 wherein the final peak viscosity of said starch is about 110 to about 1000 percent of a non-inhibited degraded cationized starch viscosity.

3. (Amended) The degraded, inhibited, cationic starch of claim 19 wherein the starch is chosen from the group consisting of corn, tapioca, potato and sago and their waxy and high amylose versions thereof.

A 4. (Amended) The degraded, inhibited, cationic starch of claim 19 wherein the starch is inhibited chemically.

5. (Amended) The degraded, inhibited, cationic starch of claim 4 wherein the starch is inhibited with epichlorohydrin.

6. (Amended) The degraded, inhibited, cationic starch of claim 19 wherein the starch is inhibited thermally.

7. (Amended) The degraded, inhibited, cationic starch of claim 19 wherein the degraded starch has a WF of about 15 to 85.

8. (Amended) The degraded, inhibited, cationic starch of claim 7 wherein the degraded starch has a WF of about 20 to 70.

9. (Amended) The degraded, inhibited, cationic starch of claim 8 wherein the degraded starch has a WF of about 35 to 65.

10. (Amended) The degraded, inhibited, cationic starch of claim 19 wherein the cationic group is a quaternary ammonium derivative.

11. (Amended) The degraded, inhibited, cationic starch of claim 20 wherein the degraded, cationic, inhibited starch has a peak viscosity of less than 250 centipoise.

A1  
12. (Amended) The degraded, inhibited, cationic starch of claim 19 wherein the starch is modified to contain a quaternary amine.

13. (Amended) A process for preparing a degraded, inhibited, cationic starch comprising the steps of:

degrading the molecular weight of a native starch,  
inhibiting the degraded starch with an inhibition agent in an amount of about 0.001% to about 0.05% by weight of dry starch, and  
chemically modifying the degraded starch with a cationic reagent,  
wherein the steps of inhibiting and chemically modifying the degraded starch with a cationic reagent occur concurrently with or subsequently to one another.

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15. (Amended) A process for making paper comprising the steps of adding the starch of claim 19 to a papermaking system.

A2  
16. (Amended) The process of claim 15 wherein the starch is added in granular form.

17. (Amended) A paper article comprising the starch of claim 19.

18. (Amended) A paper article comprising the starch produced by the process of claim 13.

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Please add the following new claims -

19. A degraded, inhibited, cationic starch prepared by degrading a starch, inhibiting the degraded starch with an inhibition agent in an amount of about 0.001% to about 0.05% by weight of dry starch, and cationically treating the starch,

wherein the steps of inhibiting and cationically treating the starch occur concurrently with or subsequently to one another.

20. The degraded, inhibited, cationic starch of claim 19 wherein the final peak viscosity of the starch is less than about 500 centipoise.

21. The degraded, inhibited, cationic starch of claim 2 wherein the final peak viscosity of the starch is about 130 to about 800 percent of the viscosity of the non-inhibited degraded cationic starch.

A<sup>3</sup>  
sub B<sup>1</sup> 22. A modified starch composition for use in papermaking comprising:  
a degraded starch,  
an inhibition agent in an amount of about 0.001% to about 0.05% by weight of dry starch,  
and  
a cationization derivative.

23. The modified starch composition of claim 22 wherein the starch is degraded to a water fluidity of about 15 to about 85.

24. The modified starch composition of claim 23 wherein the starch is degraded to a water fluidity of about 20 to about 70.

sub B<sup>2</sup> 25. The modified starch composition of claim 24 wherein the starch is degraded to a water fluidity of about 40 to about 65.

26. The modified starch composition of claim 22 wherein the inhibition agent is provided in an amount of about 0.002% to about 0.0125% by weight of dry starch.

27. Paper made from the modified starch composition of claim 22.

A3 28. The paper of claim 27 comprising about 0.05% to about 5.0% by weight of the modified starch composition based on the dry weight of the pulp.

29. The paper of claim 28 comprising about 0.1% to about 2.0% by weight of the modified starch composition based on the dry weight of the pulp.

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